

## CLAIMS

- 1 1. A filter material comprising a blend of (a) polypropylene fibers with measurable
- 2 amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof, and (b) fibers of a
- 3 second type selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic.
  
- 1 2. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the measurable amount of said
- 2 at least one extractable agent is less than about 0.1 weight percent.
  
- 1 3. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains
- 2 polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 10:90 and
- 3 about 90:10.

1    4. The filter material in accordance with claim 3, wherein the blend contains  
2    polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and  
3    about 80:20.

1    5. The filter material in accordance with claim 4, wherein the blend contains  
2    polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and  
3    about 70:30.

1    6. The filter material in accordance with claim 5, wherein the blend contains  
2    polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and  
3    about 60:40.

1    7. The filter material in accordance with claim 6, wherein the blend contains  
2    polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and  
3    about 55:45.

1    8. The filter material in accordance with claim 7, wherein the blend comprises about 50  
2    weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent of the second type of  
3    fibers.

1 9. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains  
2 polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and about 80:20.

1 10. The filter material in accordance with claim 9, wherein the blend contains  
2 polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and about 70:30.

1 11. The filter material in accordance with claim 10, wherein the blend contains  
2 polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and about 60:40.

1 12. The filter material in accordance with claim 11, wherein the blend contains  
2 polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and about 55:45.

1 13. The filter material in accordance with claim 12, wherein the blend comprises about  
2 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent acrylic fibers.

1 14. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains  
2 polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and about  
3 80:20.

1 15. The filter material in accordance with claim 14, wherein the blend contains  
2 polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and about  
3 70:30.

1 16. The filter material in accordance with claim 15, wherein the blend contains  
2 polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and about  
3 60:40.

1 17. The filter material in accordance with claim 16, wherein the blend contains  
2 polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and about  
3 55:45.

1 18. The filter material in accordance with claim 17, wherein the blend comprises about  
2 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent modacrylic fibers.

1 19. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers  
2 comprises acrylic fibers which are substantially free of extractable agents.

1 20. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers  
2 comprises acrylic fibers which contain measurable amounts of at least one extractable  
3 agent.

- 1    21. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers
- 2    comprises modacrylic fibers which are substantially free of extractable agents.
  
- 1    22. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers
- 2    comprises modacrylic fibers which contain measurable amounts of at least one
- 3    extractable agent.
  
- 1    23. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the polypropylene fibers are
- 2    not cleaned to remove said at least one extractable agent.
  
- 1    24. A filter material comprising a blend of (a) polypropylene fibers, and (b) fibers of a
- 2    second type with measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces
- 3    thereof, said fibers being selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic.
  
- 1    25. The filter material in accordance with claim 21, wherein the polypropylene fibers
- 2    have measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof.

- 1        26. A method of filtering particulate from a gas stream, the method comprising:
  - 2            (a) blending polypropylene fibers having measurable amounts of at least one  
3            extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof with fibers of a second type selected  
4            from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic to form a filter material; and  
5            (b) disposing said filter material in said gas stream without cleaning said at least  
6            one extractable agent from the outer surfaces of the fibers.